

MINUTES

Broadband Working Group September 29, 2022. 2:00 PM

Present in person or Zoom: Martha Howell, Nancy Harrison, Jason Doyle, Tim O'Neill, Mark Ouellette, Lisa Leahy, Myles Smith

- I. Reviewed and approved minutes of last meeting, September 20
- II. Financial
 - Money on hand—per Suzette \$1,700
 - Island Institute Grant—outright grant amount received of \$3,000
- III. MCA October Grant Prep
 - Mark explained that the portal opens on October 11. Information has already been posted through Maine Connectivity Authority. The zoom webinar on October 14 will really be the kickoff since that will provide the deadlines and any changes from prior grant processes. Some VERY good news already published by the MCA is that the required dollar amount for the match per pass (residential structures) is going to be only \$700. That means the proportion of grant to matching bond will be far more favorable to us. We estimate 766 homes passed so our amount will be \$536,200.
 - Register for the Oct 14 webinar- You can register at Maine Connectivity Authority under Connect The Ready Grants under Key Dates.
 - Mapping and speed testing—In reviewing the map used of current connection status in Lubec, Mark pointed out that the entire length of Straight Bay and Lead Mine roads are shown as having full connectivity of 100/100 as the “dots” are green. The purple dots all along 189 into town are Spectrum coverage which currently reflects as underserved due to the less than 100 mbps upload speeds. Those are not a problem, but the information on Straight Bay and Lead Mine is clearly erroneous. **Our mission in the next couple weeks is to get all friends and acquaintances on those roads to run speed tests, take a screed shot or whatever, and send them to the town office. We will attach those to our application in evidence.**
- IV. Outreach and Marketing
 - Marketing firm and next steps with Island Institute—Myles told us the firm being used is Frame Strategies. As they assist us, we need to also know what skills our group will provide. Myles will send along a chart for us to consider and report back on how much we can do ourselves, and where we need help. It is certainly more beneficial for us to do what work we can manage ourselves, both for the impact in our town and also financially.

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- Next Informational Meeting
 - Date, October 26, was agreed, right before the Select Board as usual. Both Jason and Tim agreed to speak briefly on their current internet situation and the importance of broadband for those working from home. We need to locate others. It was recommended we find people from different sectors and ages.
 - Mark pointed out in response to a question that once the grant is in place we will want to provide more frequent updates, such as weekly zoom sessions or hybrids. Also we will want further news articles and media attention to build subscriptions.

V. Next meeting

- October 13, 14 or 20. We did not decide. TBD.